Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand-binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises ~~c-mpl~~ the extracellular region of a granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor and the cytoplasmic region of c-mpl, or a proliferation inducing part thereof that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell.

2.-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

5. (Previously Presented) The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the ligand is tamoxifen, a derivative thereof, or a metabolite thereof and the ligand-binding domain is derived from a mutant estrogen receptor that is unresponsive to an estrogen and that is responsive to tamoxifen, a derivative thereof, or a metabolite thereof.

6. (Original) A DNA encoding the fusion protein of Claim 1.

7. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the DNA of Claim 6.

8. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell carrying the vector of Claim 7.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) A vector comprising a desired exogenous gene and a DNA encoding a fusion protein comprising (a) a first polypeptide and (b) a second polypeptide, wherein said first polypeptide comprises a ligand-binding domain of a steroid hormone receptor that, upon ligand binding, dimerizes, and wherein said second polypeptide comprises a c-mpl, or a proliferation inducing part thereof that, upon said dimerization of said first polypeptide, imparts proliferation activity to a cell, wherein said desired exogenous gene and said DNA encoding a fusion protein ~~may be~~ are located on the same ~~or different molecules~~ molecule.

11-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The vector of Claim 10, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an estrogen receptor.

15. (Previously Presented) The vector of Claim 10, wherein the ligand is tamoxifen, a derivative thereof, or a metabolite thereof, and the ligand-binding domain is derived from a mutant estrogen receptor that is unresponsive to an estrogen and that is responsive to a tamoxifen, a derivative thereof, or a metabolite thereof.

16-17. (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) An isolated cell carrying the vector of claim 10.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising (a) the vector of Claim 7 or Claim 10, and (b) a ligand capable of acting on the ligand-binding domain of the fusion protein encoded by the gene contained in the vector.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~fusion protein~~ vector of ~~Claim 21~~ Claim 10, wherein the second polypeptide comprises the extracellular region of a ~~G-CSF~~

granulocyte colony stimulating factor receptor ~~and the cytoplasmic region of c-mpl~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The fusion protein of Claim 1, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an ~~estrogen receptor,~~ androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor, or mineral corticoid receptor.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~fusion protein~~ vector of Claim 10, wherein the steroid hormone receptor is an ~~estrogen receptor,~~ androgen receptor, progesterone receptor, glucocorticoid receptor, or mineral corticoid receptor.

25. (New) The kit of claim 20, wherein said kit further comprises a vector comprising an exogenous gene.

26. (New) A vector system comprising the vector of claim 7 and a vector comprising a desired exogenous gene.